telecommunication links for border areas are provided by service providers. At present there is no plan under consideration of the Government for such links.

(d) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

One India plan

†1352. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the much publicized "One India Plan" by public sector telephone companies has been floated keeping in view the elite section of the consumers in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these companies are hardly interested in rural India;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to introduce an economy rental-plan for the poor and rural folks;

(d) if so, what are the concessions offered under the said scheme for the common and rural consumers, following the increased rentals; and

(e) the amount earmarked for advertising the said plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. The option for "One India Plan" has been offered through out the country to all sections of the subscribers in both rural and urban area.

(b) No, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. is carrying out the extensive work in rural areas.

(c) and (d) The tariff offered by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in rural area are below cost and even lower than the rates prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. BSNL has offered lower, affordable and attractive alternative package for rural subscribers especially under economy Plan as per details given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(e) No specific amount has been earmarked for advertising of the said scheme.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Economy Rental Plan for rural areas

1. Cost based Rental

As per the cost analysis done by Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the cost based Average rental is Rs. 361/- per month, by considering the affordability, the rental charged by BSNL for rural areas in the range between Rs, 50/- to Rs. 150/- per month and the equipped capacity of the exchange System as per guidelines of TRAI. The rental charged by BSNL is not only below the cost of provision but also below the ceiling prescribed by TRAI.

2. Monthly Rental Charges for B-fone for Rural Areas (Based on Exchange-system Capacity*)

	General Package of BSNL	Standard Package of TRAI
Exchange System Capacity		
Less than 1000 lines.	Rs.50	Rs.70
>1000 lines<30000 lines.	Rs. 110	Rs.120
>30000 lines<100000 lines	Rs150	Rs. 200
100000 lines & above	Rs.150	Rs.280

*As per the 20th Amendment (4 of 2002) to TTO'99 dated 14.3.2002, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had recommended the rationalization of rental for rural subscriber based on the exchange system capacity of the entire SDCA on lines of urban subscribers bur BSNL continued to follow the old practice under which BSNL took the capacity of (single) exchange that existed prior to 15.8.1998, i.e. before the local call area became co-terminus with the short distance charging area (SDCA).

3. Unit Call charges & Free calls (Monthly) for Rural Areas:

	General Package of BSNL	Standard Package of TRAI
MCU 0 to 50	Free	Free
MCU 51 to 75	Free	Rs. 0.80
MCU 76 to 300	Rs. 0.80	Rs. 0.80
MCU more than 300	Rs. 1.20	Rs. 1.20

4. Economy Package

Particular	Rural	Urban
Monthly Rental	Rs. 150/-	Rs. 300/-
Free calls in MCU	150 MCU	200 MCU
Unit Rate	Rs. 1.20/-per MCU	Rs. 1.20/- per MCU

Provision of computers and internet in rural areas

1353. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided computer and internet facility in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the details of the schemes launched by Government to implement such programmes in the States; and

(d) how far common man has been benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) under its "Internet Dhaba " scheme, provides internet Access to franchisees of Internet Dhabas in the rural Block Headquarters. As on Dec. 31, 2005 a total of 4175 Internet Dhabas have been set up through franchisees in various States in the country. In Uttar Pradesh 296 Internet Dhabas have been set up.

In addition, Department of Information Technology (DIT), has provided computer and Internet facility through its various programmes:

- NIC has established 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) at block level in North Eastern States with the objective of providing Internet access, e-mail, training and basic e-Governance services. NIC has also established CICs in 116 blocks in Jammu & Kashmir.

- NIC in collaboration with Maharashtra State Govt. has provided computers and Internet facility as 70 villages under Warana project in Kolhapur and Sangli Districts.